

**To: Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:**

**My name is Maria Cholewinski; I have been a Register Dental Hygienist for over twenty years. I have worked in all types of clinical settings and have been exposed to a diverse population of patients. During my career I have seen many patients who have dental decay and are in need of dental treatment care, but cannot afford the care and do not have dental insurance. To have HB #5630 passed will enhance our role as a Register Dental Hygienist in preventing oral disease and treating it. It will make dental health care more manageable, which can save critical health care dollars in the long run.**

**As Mid-level oral care health care providers, the ADHP will serve in the same capacity similar to nurse practitioner in medicine. The ADHP will be adding a new member to the oral health care team and provide care for those patients. The ADPH education will be a reflection of the highest standards through a Masters program continuing the education of a licensed Register Dental Hygienist with a Bachelor Degree.**

**In the next 10 years twice the dentist will be retiring, that will be entering dental school. This is according to an article in the Journal of Dental Education in November 2007. This leaves more citizens in our state that will not receive dental care. As a Register Dental Hygienist, we are the "preventive oral disease specialist". Having the ADHP will allow us to provide care to diverse population in a variety of public setting, such as schools, clinic and long-term-facilities.**

**The ADHP is a "meaningful and substantive response to the call of the US Surgeon to increase access to oral health care services for the "Underserved populations."**

**Thank You,**

**Maria Cholewinski RDH BS**

**Brandford, CT**